



August 5 - On July 15, the House passed the 21st extension to the FAA authorization, but unlike the 20 previous extensions, it was not “clean.” Instead, it included a provision that would strip \$16 million in rural subsidies under the Essential Air Service program. The Senate would not agree to those cuts. When the 20th extension expired on July 22, some 4,000 FAA employees were furloughed and construction crews across the country were out of work. Finally, *after* leaving town for a month-long recess, the Senate agreed to clear the House-passed bill with a promise by Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to exercise his authority to waive the Essential Air Service cuts. Today, the bill passed under unanimous consent in a pro forma session, and President Obama signed it into law. The extension funds the Airport and Airway Trust fund until September 16.